

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 USUN 6359

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SGEN, SHUM, SOCI, SNAR, SREF, SCUL, SEDU, EGEN,
EAID, AORE, OCON
SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE -- WRAP UP

1. SUMMARY: IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE IT WAS OFTEN SAID THAT THIS WAS THE YEAR OF AFRICA. THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE SESSION WERE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO CONDEMNATION OF RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE STRONG ROLE PLAYED BY THE AFRICAN STATES, LED BY GHANA, AND ARAB MEMORIES OF STINGING WESTERN REBUKES AFTER THE ADOPTION OF RES 3379 LAST YEAR, PRESENTED A RE-OPENING OF THE ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE. THE US WAS UNCREASINGLY CRITICIZED FROM MANY QUARTERS IN THE DEBATE AND, ALONG WITH OTHERS, CONDEMNED BY NAME IN ONE RESOLUTION.

2. THE AFRICA PORTION WAS FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD OF MILD CONFRONTATION WITH THE G-77, LED BY PAKISTAN, OVER SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO). THIS WAS AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AS THE AGENDA ITEM ON THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONTENTIOUS OR EVEN OF MUCH INTEREST TO THE G-77. AFTER THIS HIGHMARK OF NON-COOPERATION, THE REST OF THE SESSION UNFOLDED IN A RELATIVELY PREDICTABLE MANNER. THE G-77
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PLAYED NO FURTHER ROLE AS AN ORGANIZED GROUP. ON THE PRINCIPAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, CHILE AND THE SEDISH PROPOSAL ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, THE DEBATE TURNED MORE TO AN EAST-WEST IDEOLOGICAL CONTEST. ON ALL OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, THE ROLE OF THE USSR AS AN ACTIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANIPULATOR WAS ALL TOO EVIDENT AND UNFORTUNATELY

OFTER EFFECTIVE.

3. IN THE VIEW OF MANY -- INCLUDING THE PRESS -- THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT OF THE SESSION WAS OUR OWN DELIVERED BY GOVERNOR SCRANTON DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH MANY DELEGATIONS WERE SURPRISED BY ITS STRONG CONTENT, THE STATEMENT WAS WELL RECEIVED EXCEPT BY THE SOVIETS, AND WIDELY CIRCULATED. THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS, INCLUDING THE DECADE FOR WOMEN WHICH WAS POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME, WERE ALL DISPATCHED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION WITH LEADERSHIP BEING EXERTED BY INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS RATHER THAN BY GROUPS. THE US MAINTAINED CLOSE COORDINATION THROUGHOUT THE SESSION WITH THE EC-9 AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS WITH A VIEW TO REACHING COMMON POSITIONS AND BASING DECISIONS ON THE MAXIMUM AVAILABLE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

4. AFTER THE CHAOTIC SESSION OF THE 30TH GA, DURING WHICH THE THIRD COMMITTEE PRODUCED THE NOTORIOUS RESOLUTION 3379 DEFINING ZIONISM AS A FORM OF RACISM, MANY DELEGATIONS FACED THIS SESSION WITH TREPIDATION. THESE FEARS PROVED, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, TO BE UNWARRANTED AS THE COMMITTEE WORKED ITS WAY CAREFULLY THROUGH ITS DIVERSE AGENDA UNDER THE STRONG AND SKILLFUL GUIDANCE OF THE CHAIRMAN, DIETRICH VON KYAW OF THE FRG. VON KYAW'S FAMILIARITY WITH THE COMMITTEE'S WORK AND COMMAND OF THE PROCEDURES HAD A SOBERING EFFECT ON DELEGATIONS AND WENT A LONG WAY TOWARDS CORRECTING THE REPUTATION FOR UNRULINESS THE COMMITTEE GAINED AT THE 30TH SESSION UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF A SOFT-SPOKEN, DOCILE, CZECH, WHO WAS KNOWN TO FEEL MORE AT HOME AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BAR THAN WITH THE RULE BOOKS.

5. AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE SESSION THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM (THE AGENDA ITEM UNDER WHICH LAST YEAR'S ZIONISM RESOLUTION WAS PASSED), AND TWO OTHER ITEMS DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY AT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ITEM 76 ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES, AND ITEM 70, ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO COLONIAL AND RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

6. THE MAIN CONCERN OF WESTERN DELEGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST OF THESE ITEMS WAS TO AVOID AN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE AND TO RESIST ATTEMPTS TO REAFFIRM OR EXPAND ON THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION.

7. THE THIRD COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM WAS RESTRAINED AND WITHOUT THE TURMOIL OF LAST YEAR. THE AFRICANS EXERTED THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ON THE ARAB DELEGATIONS TO AVOID HEATING UP THE DEBATE AND MORE IMPORTANTLY TO REFRAIN FROM AMENDING THE TWO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO INCLUDE EXPLICIT REFERENCES TO THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION. OTHER FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO KEEPING THE LID ON THE ZIONISM ISSUE WERE THE FRESH MEMORY OF THE SHARP WESTERN, PARTICULARLY US REACTION LAST YEAR, AND ALSO PERHAPS THE WANING INFLUENCE OF THE PLO AS A RESULT OF THE COMPLICATIONS IN LEBANON. THE AFRICANS WERE, THUS, SUCCESSFUL IN PREVENTING A REOPENING OF THE ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE AND IN MAKING INROADS INTO WESTERN OPPOSITION TO THE DECADE AND MORE IMPORTANTLY TO WESTERN RESOLVES TO BOYCOTT THE GHANA CONFERENCE. CHANGES IN POSITION WERE MADE BY CANADA, NORWAY AND DENMARK. CANADA HAD PREVIOUSLY VOTED "NO" ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS BUT SWITCHED TO AN ABSTENTION ON THE FIRST RESOLUTION. DENMARK AND NORWAY BOTH SWITCHED

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FROM AN ABSTENTION TO A "YES" ON THE FIRST RESOLUTION. ONLY PERSONAL LOBBYING BY GOVERNOR SCRANTON CONVINCED THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO MAINTAIN AN ABSTENTION ON BOTH RESOLUTION. WE KEPT THE US RECORD CLEAR WITH A GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT REITERATING US REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE.

8. GIVEN THE CURRENT ATTITUDES OF THE EC-9 AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, WE BELIEVE THAT IF A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF TIME ELAPSES DURING WHICH THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION IS NOT EXPLICITLY MENTIONED, THEY WILL REASSESS THEIR DECISIONS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GHANA CONFERENCE AND WILL SEE THEIR WAY CLEAR TO ATTEND. AS A CONDITION, THEY WILL NOTE THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO WALK OUT OF THE CONFERENCE IF ZIONISM BECOMES AN ISSUE.

9. THIS SUBJECT WILL NEXT BE DISCUSSED AT THE SPRING SESSION OF THE ECOSOC. WE CAN EXPECT THAT THE US WILL BE EVEN FURTHER ISOLATED AND THE WESTERN COHESION WILL NEARLY DISSOLVE. THE US WILL NEED TO EITHER ACCEPT ITS ISOLATION OR WORK ACTIVELY TO SEEK WORDING IN THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE AN EXPLICIT BREAK IN THE LINK BETWEEN THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION AND THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE. OUR POSITION ON THE DECADE IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA HAS ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGULAR UN BUDGET TO PAY ITS NORMAL SHARE OF THE COST OF HOSTING THE CONFERENCE. THE US DELEGATION HAS STATED ITS RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO MAKING AN EXCEPTION TO RESOLUTION 2609 CONCERNING FUNDING OF CONFERENCES AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE

POINT OF HAVING TO PAY OR WITHHOLD.

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10. SELF-DETERMINATION AND ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES.
THE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED CLIMATE OF THE DEBATES ON THE DECADE
GAVE WAY TO WHOLESAL ANTI-WEST AND ANTI-ISRAEL STATEMENTS
AS THE AFRICANS AND ARABS GAVE VENT TO THE FEELINGS ON
SOUTH AFRICA AND PALESTINE. THE EASTERN BLOC JOINED IN
TO AFFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND
TO ATTACK WESTERN CAPITALISM AND NATO MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR
FOR SUPPORTING REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THIS DEBATE LED
TO A PREDICTABLY UNACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE
LEGITIMACY OF ARMED STRUGGLE AND CONDEMNING "POLICIES OF
THOSE MEMBERS OF NATO AND THOSE COUNTRIES WHOSE POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC, MILITARY OR SPORTING RELATIONS WITH THE RACIST
REGIMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE ENCOURAGE THOSE
REGIMES TO PERSIST IN THEIR SUPPRESSION OF THE ASPIRATIONS
OF PEOPLES FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY."
THE BELGIAN DELEGATION TOOK THE LEAD IN DEFENDING WESTERN
INTERESTS BY TABLING AN AMENDMENT CALLING FOR DELETION OF
THE PARAGRAPH CONDEMNING NATO. THE AMENDMENT WAS UNSECCUSSFUL
BUT GARNERED ENOUGH SUPPORT TO ENCOURAGE NATO MEMBERS TO
INCREASE EFFORTS NEXT YEAR WITH A VIEW TO REMOVING THE
OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE ALTOGETHER.

11. ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES. DEBATE ON THIS ITEM CONTINUED
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TO BE DOMINATED BY ATTACKS ON CERTAIN COUNTRIES FOR TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE CENTERPIECE OF THE DEBATE WAS THE "KHALIFA REPORT," A STUDY ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATE AT THE SUB-COMMISSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF VARIOUS TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE USSR HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE MAXIMUM USE OF THIS ITEM AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR ATTACKING THE WEST. THE REPORT SINGLED OUT THE US, FRG, FRANCE, UK, ISRAEL AND JAPAN FOR PARTICULAR CRITICISM AND THE RESOLUTING RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNED ALL SIX. THE RESOLUTION ALSO CRITICIZED THE US, FRANCE, AND UK FOR USE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL VETO ON RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE US STATEMENT UNDER THIS ITEM REITERATED OUR VIEW THAT NORMAL DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE "ASSISTANCE." THE RANKS OF THOSE ABSTAINING ON THE RESOLUTION WERE UNEXPECTEDLY SWELLED BY THE EASTERN BLOC, LED BY THE USSR, WHICH MUCH TO ITS CHAGRIN WAS FORCED TO ABSTAIN BECAUSE OF A PARAGRAPH ADDED BY THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION, CALLING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE USE OF THE VETO ON THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE ADDITION OF THIS PARAGRAPH CAUSED TWO OF THE CO-SPONSORS, SENEGAL AND CAMEROON, TO WITHDRAW THEIR CO-SPONSORSHIP BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED IN ADVANCE BY THE NIGERIAN DELEGATE. THE FRG FELT PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR CRITICISM BY NAME AND DID EXTENSIVE LOBBYING IN CAPITALS ON THIS ISSUE. A SEPARATE VOTE (IN PLENARY) ON THE OFFENSIVE PARAGRAPH WAS 68-25(US)-39. THOSE ABSTAINING INCLUDED SEVERAL LATINS AS WELL AS MODERATE AFRICANS AND ASIANS. THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE WAS ADOPTED 97-11(US)-28.

12. OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

CHILE. THE NOW TRADITIONAL WEEK OF CONDEMNATION OF
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CHILE WAS REPEATED THIS YEAR WITH THE MOST VEHEMENT STATEMENTS BEING MADE BY THE EASTERN BLOC. THE LATINS, LED BY AMBASSADOR GIAMBRUNO OF URUGUAY, PUT UP AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE AND TABLED A SEPARATE RESOLUTION ON CHILE IN AN EFFORT TO SHOW LATIN SOLIDARITY AND TO POINT UP EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE OAS TO DEAL WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN LATIN AMERICA. ALTHOUGH IT WAS AT FIRST CONSIDERED A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE LATIN RESOLUTION WOULD BE SIDETRACKED BY A PROCEDURAL MOTION TO AVOID A VOTE, THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE PRINCIPAL CHILE RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY

THE USSR AND CUBA, BECAME SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AFTER THE CHILEAN PRISONER RELEASE THAT THE LATIN RESOLUTION MIGHT GET TO A VOTE AND BE APPROVED.

13. PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OF THE RELEASE OF OVER 300 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE OFFER TO EXCHANGE TWO PRISONERS FOR PERSONS HELD IN THE USSR AND CUBA, ALL DELEGATIONS, EXCEPT FOR A HANDFUL OF LATIN COUNTRIES, APPEARED READY TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE CHILE RESOLUTION IN SPITE OF RESERVATIONS ON OPERATIVE PARA 5(C) CALLING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF VARIOUS FORMS OF AID EXTENDED TO THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES. WESTERN SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION WAS SOLID, WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EC-9 (DENMARK, IRELAND, NETHERLANDS AND UK) AMONG THE 42 CO-SPONSORS. THE LATIN GROUP APPEARED TO BE FAIRLY SPLIT ON THE SUBJECT. THE SITUATION CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY AFTER THE PRISONER RELEASE AND THE REFUSAL OF THE CO-SPONSORS TO INCLUDE ANYTHING BUT A CRYPTIC REFERENCE TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ACTION. MOST DELEGATIONS BELIEVED THAT, WHATEVER THE MOTIVES OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT IN RELEASING THE PRISONERS, IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD AND LED TO STRONG HOPES FOR FURTHER REDUCTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHILE. THE US JOINED THE FRG, FRANCE AND 15 OTHERS IN ABSTAINING ON THE RESOLUTION IN THIRD COMMITTEE WHERE THE VOTE WAS 98-14-18(US). THE FINAL VOTE IN PLENARY WAS 95-12-25(US). ALTHOUGH THE PRISONER RELEASE WAS A HOPEFUL CONFIDENTIAL

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SIGN, THE SHAPE OF NEXT YEAR'S DEBATE WILL NOT BE GREATLY DIFFERENT UNLESS CHILE MAKES A VAST IMPROVEMENT IN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AS THE CHILE DEBATE IS A FAVORITE "SOCIALIST" VEHICLE FOR CONDEMNING RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENTS. THE SINCERITY OF THEIR CONCERN FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IS OPEN TO QUESTION AND IS REFLECTED IN THE COMMUNIST BLOC POSITION ON THE SWEDISH POLITICAL PRISONER RESOLUTION.

14. THE US STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DELIVERED BY GOVERNOR SCRANTON, WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE SESSION. IT CONSTITUTED AN UNEXPECTED RETORT TO THE CONSTANT SOVIET HARASSMENT OF THE WEST AND SERVED AS AN EFFECTIVE REMINDER TO THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OF US CONCERN IN THIS AREA.

15. EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION AND FAVORABLE COMMENT WERE RECEIVED FROM ALL QUARTERS (EXCEPT EASTERN EUROPE). MANY FELT THE STATEMENT WAS JUSTIFIABLY STRONG AND FRANK AND MADE POINTS THAT OTHERS LACKED THE COURAGE OR THE WILL TO MAKE. ALTHOUGH THE CONTENT WAS SHARP AND POINTED THE TONE WAS PERCEIVED TO BE CONCERNED AND SINCERE.

16. INFORMAL COMMENTS. WESTERN EUROPEANS WERE INITIALLY SILENT THEN COMMENTED THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE OUTSPOKEN THEMSELVES. SOME WERE AT FIRST FEARFUL THAT US OUTSPOKENNESS WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE SWEDISH POLITICAL PRISONER RESOLUTION. IN OUR VIEW THE EFFECT WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE, AS THE SOVIETS WERE EMBARRASSED TO FIND THEMSELVES ALONE AND IN THE SPOTLIGHT AS THE LEADERS OF THE EASTERN BLOC OPPOSITION TO THE POLITICAL PRISONERS INITIATIVE. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR COMPLIMENTS FROM SUCH UNEXPECTED QUARTERS AS GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE SUDAN.

17. FORMAL REPLIES.
IN ADDITION TO A MILD REPLY BY AMB BAROODY OF SAUDI ARABIA, SHARP REPLIES WERE MADE BY THE LAO PEOPLES
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REPUBLIC AND DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.

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20. THE USSR WAITED TWO DAYS TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT OF REPLY. THE DELEGATE OF THE USSR BEGAN HER STATEMENT BY RECALLING THAT AGENDA ITEM 12 (UNDER WHICH THE US STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED) WAS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE ITEM ON ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES (ITEM 70) AND THE DECIDE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM. THE USSR HAD BEEN SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THESE ITEMS. SHE NOTED THAT THE

USSR WAS FREE FROM ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION. THE SOVIET DELEGATE REJECTED WHAT IT CALLED "ATTEMPTS TO CAST DOUBT ON ITS POLICY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS". SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE US HAD NOT SUPPORTED THIRD COMITE RESOLUTIONS ON SELF-DETERMINATION (WHICH ATTACKED NATO), OR THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM, OR THE SITUATION IN CHILE AND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE US HAD MADE UNFOUNDED ATTACKS IN CONNECTION WITH A DRAFT RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF ALL PERSONS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY WHICH HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. AMB BENNETT REPLIED SHARPLY TO THE USSR BY POINTING OUT THAT THE USSR WAS DEFENSIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WITH GOOD REASON. HE NOTED THAT LENIN SAID THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE NO NEED FOR LIBERTY... IN A STATE WORTHY OF THE NAME THERE IS NO LIBERTY. THE SOVIET DELEGATE WAS LATER OVERHEAD REMARKING THAT THE QUOTE FROM LENIN WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ONE FOR THEM. CONFIDENTIAL

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21. OTHER OFFICIAL REACTION. IN A STATEMENT MADE LATER IN THE DEBATE IN SUPPORT OF THE SWEDISH POLITICAL PRISONERS RESOLUTION, THE DELEGATE OF GHANA STATED THAT GHANA WOULD SUPPORT THE SWEDISH RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF ITS CONCERN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE PROTECTED IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD. HE ADDED THAT HE SHARED THE CONCERN RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US OVER POLITICIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, HE CRITICIZED WHAT HE TERMED ATTEMPTS TO DEPICT THE SO-CALLED WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AS SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION, POLICIES PURSUED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO UNDERMINE AND DESTABILIZE GOVERNMENTS THEY DID NOT LIKE, AND THE SELECTIVITY OF POWERS WHICH WERE PREPARED TO THREATEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND AT THE SAME TIME TREAT SOUTH AFRICA WITH RESPECT AND PROTECT IT WITH ARMS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE VETO.

22. POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE MAJOR WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE, THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, LED TO AN IMPASSE WITH THE ESTERN BLOC AND A DECISION TO REFER THE RESOLUTION, ALONG WITH A BYELORUSSIAN COUNTER-DRAFT, TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GA. THE SWEDES MADE A MAJOR LOBBYING EFFORT TO LINE UP G-77 SUPPORT AND SUCCEEDED IN ELECITING PROMISES THAT NO AMENDMENTS WOULD BE SUBMITTED BY THEM. THIS LEFT THE EASTERN BLOC IN ISLOATION, SINGLED OUT AS THE MAJOR OPPONENTS OF ANY ACTION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS.

23. THE ITEMS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE WERE ADDITIONAL SPARRING GROUND FOR EAST VS. WEST, WITH THE G-77 BEING INTERESTED BYSTANDERS. IN THE CASE OF THE ITEM

ON ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE, THERE WAS NO TIME FOR A GENERAL DEBATE AND THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION CIRCULATED A DRAFT, MAINLY PROCEDURAL, ASKING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO SPEED UP ITS WORK AND PRODUCE A DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE
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ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE FOR THE 32ND GA. THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES SOUGHT WAYS TO AVOID SETTING A DEADLINE FOR PRODUCTION OF A DRAFT CONVENTION ON RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE, TO WHICH THEY HAVE A STRONG AVERSION.

24. SOCIAL ISSUES.

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION. THIS ITEM HAD BEEN POSTPONED LAST YEAR DUE TO LACK OF TIME AND HAD RECEIVED LITTLE THIRD WORLD ATTENTION IN THE PAST. AT THIS SESSION, THE G-77, LED BY PAKISTAN, SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS ARGUING AMONG THEMSELVES OVER A CONFRONTATIONAL DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION, INCORPORATING ALL ASPECTS OF THE NIEO AND USING THE RESOLUTION AS THE VEHICLE FOR A LENGTHY ATTACK ON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF NIEO AND FOR LACK OF PROGRESS AT CIEC. RATHER THAN AGREE TO NEGOTIATIONS OVER AMENDMENTS PRESENTED INFORMALLY BY THE EC-9 AND THE US, THE G-77 DISCUSSED THE AMENDMENTS IN CLOSED MEETINGS, ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE UNACCEPTABLE AND REFUSED TO CARRY OUT ANY FACE TO FACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE EC-9 AND US DELEGATIONS DECIDED THEREFORE TO SIMPLY ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION WITH AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE THAT THE ABSTENTION WAS FOR PROCEDURAL REASONS DUE TO THE G-77 REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE. IT WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THIS CONFRONTATION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT EXPRESSLY BY THE PAKISTANI DELEGATION AND WAS CLEARLY LINKED TO BEHAVIOR OF PAKISTAN WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE SECOND COMITE. THE TUNISIAN VICE CHAIRMAN PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN PREVENTING THE ATMOSPHERE FROM DEGENERATING EVEN FURTHER AND FROM PREVENTING THE CONFRONTATION TACTICS FROM BEING CONTINUED ON SUBSEQUENT AGENDA ITEMS. FOLLOWING THIS CONFRONTATIONAL PERIOD, THE COMITE SETTLED INTO A PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM, WHERE SMALL WORKING GROUPS WERE FORMED ON AN AD HOC BASIS TO CARRY OUT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS. THE RESOLUTIONS ON THE DECADE FOR WOMEN, YOUTH, AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS WERE ALL PRODUCED
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WITHOUT CONFRONTATION.

25. THE G-77 TOOK NO FURTHER APPARENT ACTIONS AS A GROUP IN THE COMITE WORK AFTER THE ITEM ON THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION. THE AFRICAN GROUP WAS NOT ACTIVE AFTER THE INITIAL WEEKS OF DEBATE ON THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM, SELF-DETERMINATION AND ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF AID TO SOUTH AFRICA.

26. DECADE FOR WOMEN. THIS ITEM WAS ONE OF THE LEAST CONTENTIOUS ON THE AGENDA, ALTHOUGH IT WAS POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY AND FROM THE 30TH GA COULD BE REAFFIRMED. ACTIVE ROLES WERE PLAYED BY THE DELEGATES OF MONGOLIA (WHICH PRODUCED A RESOLUTION ON WOMEN IN EDUCATION), IRAN (SHEPHERDING THROUGH A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING SELECTION OF IRAN AS THE SITE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING OF WOMEN), AND THE PHILIPPINES (PRODUCING AN OMNIBUS RESOLUTION ON THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE AND A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PLEDGING CONFERENCE TO SOLICITE FUNDS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE AND THE VOLUNTARY FUND) A DETAILED STATEMENT OF US VIEWS AND AREAS OF CONCERN ON THE DECADE WAS DELIVERED BY US REPRESENTATIVE ERSA POSTON.

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27. THE RESOLUTION ON THE PROGRAM OF THE DECADE (31/136) AROUSED SOME CONCERN AMONG WESTERN DELEGATIONS WHO FEARED THAT THE REFERENCE IN THE FIRST PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH TO THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION AND "RELATED RESOLUTIONS OF THE IWY CONFERENCE" COULD BE INTERPRETED AS ENCOMPASSING ALL

OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF IWY CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ZIONISM. IN AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION 3520 AT THE 30TH GA, WHICH CONTAINED THE SAME WORDING, THE US MADE CLEAR THAT IT DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THIS LANGUAGE ENCOMPASSED ALL OF THE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED RESOLUTIONS OF THE IWY CONFERENCE AND THAT IT WOULD INTERPRET "RELATED RESOLUTIONS" AS REFERRING ONLY TO THOSE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION (WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY CONSENSUS). WESTERN DELEGATIONS, AFTER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, DECIDED TO MAINTAIN THIS INTERPRETATION OF THE PHRASE "RELATED RESOLUTIONS" AND TO SUPPORT ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION BY CONSENSUS. THE DELEGATION OF ISRAEL ALSO JOINED THE CONSENSUS, MAKING A SHORT EXPLANATION OF VOTE.

28. THE FIFTH COMITE REPORT (A/C.5/31/34) RECOMMENDING THE MOVE TO VIENNA OF THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WHICH INCLUDES THE PROMOTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN BRANCH, WAS THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE IN THE THIRD COMITE ALSO. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, AND LATER THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL SIPILA (CSDHA) EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE MOVE. IN VIEW OF THE DEPT'S PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITION ON THE MOVE TO DONAUPARK, THE US DELEGATION DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEBATE.

28. YOUTH. THE US PARTICIPATED IN LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS ON TWO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOUTH AND THE UN. THE US SUCCEEDED IN INFLUENCING THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ITS FAVOR. THE FIRST INSTANCE INVOLVED THE GENEVA INFORMAL MEETING (GIM) (AN NGO GROUP ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE STRONG MISGIVINGS) WHICH THE NETHERLANDS TRIED AND FAILED TO EMPHASIZE IN A DRAFT WHICH, INTER ALIA, CALLED FOR UN FUNDS TO SUBSIDIZE TRAVEL OF THIRD WORLD NGOS TO GENEVA. A COALITION OF THE US, EGYPT AND THE USSR FORCED THE DUTCH TO ACCEPT A MORE GENERAL ALTERNATIVE DRAFT. IN A SECOND INSTANCE THE SOVIETS TRIED TO INTRODUCE NIEO, RACISM AND LIBERATION MOVEMENT LANGUAGE INTO A COMPROMISE DRAFT. THE US, THIS TIME SUPPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS AND YUGOSLAVIA, REFUSED TO ACCEPT THAT LANGUAGE AS ALIEN TO THE SUBJECT OF THE RESOLUTION AND A DEADLOCK RESULTED, LEADING TO AN ACCEPTABLE PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION. SINCE "LEAST IS BEST" WAS OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE ON THIS ITEM, OUR NEGOTIATING EFFORTS PAID OFF.

29. ANTI-US SENTIMENTS. THE US DELEGATION DECIDED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION TO BE SPARING IN EXERCISING ITS RIGHT OF REPLY SO AS NOT TO BE PROVOKED INTO FRUITLESS

EXCHANGES. THE FIRST DIRECT CRITICISM CAME FROM ALBANIA TO WHOM THE US REPLIED AND WHICH DELEGATION WAS ABSENT FROM ALL SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. THE CUBANS MADE AN EARLY ATTACK ON PUERTO RICO TO WHICH WE REPLIED AND THEN AVOIDED ANY FURTHER PROVOCATIONS.

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30. THE LAO PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC MADE AN UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG CRITIQUE UNDER THE ITEM ON THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION. THE MOST CONCERTED EFFORTS WERE THOSE OF THE EASTERN BLOC WHO CONSISTENTLY CRITICIZED THE WEST, CAPITALISM AND THE US UNDER EVERY ITEM. MOST OF THE CRITICISM WAS AT A LEVEL CALCULATED TO AVOID PROVOKING A RIGHT OF REPLY, AND THE USSR WAS, THUS, SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO FIND ITSELF SINGLED OUT IN THE US STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE CONSIDERED A SINGLE STATEMENT A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE FORM OF DEFENSE THAN A SERIES OF AD HOC RIGHTS OF REPLY.

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